



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,149	01/22/2004	Liu Gui Tain	USP2167A-MC4	4186
30265	7590	01/03/2007		
RAYMOND Y. CHAN 108 N. YNEZ AVE., SUITE 128 MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754			EXAMINER CHEUNG, VICTOR	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3709	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/03/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/762,149

Applicant(s)

TAIN, LIU GUI

Examiner

Victor Cheung

Art Unit

3709

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f):
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Art Unit: 3709

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Page 2, Line 9: It is believed that "either 1 or 10" should be --either 1 or 11-- as in a standard Blackjack game.
 - Page 2, Line 30: "tempering" should be --tampering--.
 - Page 4, Line 6: "unusually happenings" should be --unusual happenings--.
 - Page 4, Line 13: "transferred" should be --transfer--.
 - Page 4, Line 16: "indicating" should be --indicates--.
 - Page 12, Line 23: "medium 23" should be --medium 33--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 8, 14, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Walker et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0123376).

Re Claim 1: Walker et al. disclose a method for managing a card game comprising the steps of reading a card value of each playing card once the playing card is dispensed from a poker dealing device (Page 11, Paragraph 131), transmitting the card values of the playing cards as card signals to a central management unit (Page 11, Paragraph 130), recording the card signals to form a game record corresponding to the card game in a manner that the card game is capable of being tracked (Page 12, Paragraph 145).

Re Claims 2 and 3: Walker et al. disclose that a card reader is at a dispensing slot of the poker dealing device, where a card indicator is on the face side of each playing card to represent the card value, such that the card reader reads the card indicator when the playing card is dispensed (Page 11, Paragraph 131).

Re Claims 14: Walker et al. also disclose that one of the monitoring devices comprise sensors that detect information related to the amount of a player's wager. The wager information may be transmitted and stored to the central management unit (Page 11, Paragraph 130; Page 12, Paragraphs 141 and 145).

Re Claims 8 and 16: Walker et al. also disclose that the bet signal is transmitted wirelessly (Page 2, Paragraph 39).

Art Unit: 3709

Re Claim 18: Pressure sensors are used to sense the weight of a player's chips, determining how many chips the player wagered. (Page 12, Paragraph 141).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7, 9, 10, 15, 17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0123376) in view of Lorsen et al. (US Patent No. 6,126,166).

Re Claim 7: Walker et al. disclose the limitations of Claim 3, as discussed above.

However, Walker et al. do not specifically teach that the card signal is encoded into a digital form before being transmitted.

Lorsen et al. teach that the card signals are encoded from analog output voltages to digital output signals (Col. 10, Lines 17-23).

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to encode the card signal into a digital form before being transmitted. Without encoding the analog output into a digital form, the card value data cannot be analyzed.

Art Unit: 3709

Re Claims 9 and 10: Walker et al. also teaches that the card signal is transmitted wirelessly (Page 2, Paragraph 39).

Re Claim 15: Walker et al. teach the limitations of Claim 14, as discussed above.

However, Walker et al. do not specifically teach that the bet signal and the card signal are encoded into a digital form before being transmitted.

As discussed in Claim 7 above, Lorsen et al. teach that the card signals are encoded from analog output voltages to digital output signals (Col. 10, Lines 17-23).

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to encode the bet signal and the card signal into a digital form before being transmitted. Without encoding the analog outputs from the sensors into a digital form, it would be more difficult for a computer to analyze, record, and transmit the data.

Re Claim 17: Walker et al. also teaches that the card signal and bet signal are transmitted wirelessly (Page 2, Paragraph 39).

Re Claims 19, and 20: Walker et al. also teach that pressure sensors are used to sense the weight of a player's chips, determining how many chips the player wagered. (Page 12, Paragraph 141).

Art Unit: 3709

6. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0123376) in view of Franchi (US Patent No. 5,770,533).

Walker et al. disclose the limitations of Claim 3, as discussed above.

However, Walker et al. do not specifically teach that the card reader is an optical scanning device reading a barcode of the card indicator, or that the card reader is a magnetic sensor reading a magnetic-sensitive layer of the card indicator.

Franchi teaches that the card readers and the card indicators can operate by use of barcodes or magnetic codes and scanners (Col. 10, Lines 42-48; Fig. 9).

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the card reader and the card indicator operate by use of barcodes or magnetic codes. Each method is quicker and more efficient than a full image scan and recognition of the face of the card.

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0123376) in view of Hill (US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0068635).

Walker et al. disclose the limitations of Claim 1 as discussed above.

However, Walker et al. do not specifically teach displaying the game record after the card game is over, wherein the game record is a record regarding a status of winning and losing and odds of the card game.

Art Unit: 3709

Hill teaches that game play and individual player records should be recorded and displayed, including wins, losses, betting activity, especially for the dealer and management (Page 3, Paragraph 19, Lines 1-11).

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display the game record after the card game is over. By displaying the game record, there is higher speed and accuracy for the dealer and management in determining the end result of each game.

8. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0123376) in view of Lorsen et al. (US Patent No. 6,126,166), as applied to claims 7 and 10 above, and further in view of Hill (US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0068635).

Walker et al., as modified by Lorsen et al., teach the limitations of Claims 7 and 10, as discussed above.

However, they do not specifically teach displaying the game record after the card game is over, wherein the game record is a record regarding a status of winning and losing and odds of the card game.

Hill teaches that game play and individual player records should be recorded and displayed, including wins, losses, betting activity, especially for the dealer and management (Page 3, Paragraph 19, Lines 1-11).

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display the game record after the card game is over. By displaying the game record,

Art Unit: 3709

there is higher speed and accuracy for the dealer and management in determining the end result of each game.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Order discloses that playing cards may be marked by a barcode system and that data can be wirelessly transmitted.
- Sines et al. disclose that playing cards can be detected as they are being dealt by optical or magnetic sensors, and that betting chips can be detected by weigh cells on the paying table.
- Soltys et al. disclose that barcodes can be used to detect and identify playing cards, and that an analog to digital converter is used to convert the analog signal into a machine readable form.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor Cheung whose telephone number is (571) 270-1349. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 8-4:30, and every other Fri, 8-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jong-Suk (James) Lee can be reached on (571) 272-7044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3709

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

VC

12/21/2006


KIM NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER